

Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon)

1. Origin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Church was organised in America in the early 19th C by the prophet Joseph Smith.
2. Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ English but adherents can have ties to many other parts of the world.
3. Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Bible and the Book of Mormon are scriptures.▪ Father, Son and Holy Spirit are viewed as three separate members of the Godhead but one in purpose.▪ A spirit-life before birth and life-after-death with Jesus Christ and God are believed in.▪ Family unity is very important. There is a “sealing” ceremony in the Temple where husband and wife are joined for eternity; children may also be sealed to their parents.▪ The church believes in continued revelation from God through a living prophet.
4. Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No specific customs. Particular views and practices may exist about difficult ethical issues.
5. Prayer & Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Members of the LDS church will offer personal prayers and blessings for their food but do not have set times to pray nor need to get out of bed to do so, if this is not practical.▪ The sacrament of bread and water (LDS’s abstain from alcohol) is shared each Sunday. It may be taken in hospital but is not regarded as something which is essential for patients to receive.▪ At the request of a person two members of the LDS priesthood will visit to give a blessing – they anoint the person’s head with consecrated oil and offer a prayer. Privacy for this would be appreciated.



6. Diet & Fasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Church is against the use of stimulants and harmful substances and promotes healthy eating. So tea, coffee, alcohol and tobacco are avoided. Hot Chocolate, Ovaltine and other drinks normally provided on wards are perfectly acceptable.▪ Most members of the Church have normal dietary habits although some may make “healthier choices”.▪ All who are medically fit fast for 24 hours, usually on the first Sunday of the month (often from after a Saturday evening meal until after the afternoon meal on Sunday).
7. Clothing & Washing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Those who have undergone a special Temple ceremony wear special undergarments (white knee length shorts and tops) to remind them of promises made to the Lord. They will normally wear these both day and night but they can be removed for laundering or surgical operations, although they must be treated with respect at all times. They are often not worn whilst people are in hospital but this is a personal choice for the patient.▪ Modesty is the norm.
8. Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Care and reverence for the body is valued.▪ Most Latter-day Saints are willing to seek medical help and advice when sick.▪ There is no objection to blood transfusions.
9. Care of the Dying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ There are no specific rituals connected with death or dying. Contact with family and other members of the Mormon community is important.



10. Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ After death the body should be washed and dressed in a shroud with normal hospital protocol.▪ Those with special undergarments (see 7. above) should be buried wearing these; the Church will dress the body with other special clothes before burial, by arrangement with the funeral director.▪ Generally, families don't choose cremation but the family will decide.▪ The Bishop from the local congregation will be able to help with funeral arrangements and offer solace.▪ There are no religious objections to post-mortems or organ donation.
11. Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The chaplaincy department has a local contact for obtaining further advice and support.

